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To Whom It May Concern,

The biggest step for a new parent, especially a mother, is to let someone else take care of their child while they work. You search for the perfect daycare, either center or in home, get references, and have meetings with the provider. In home is more personal, but a center is more educational based. Then you settle on the one you think is the best fit for your baby. The first day you leave your baby with that person is so incredibly hard. You miss your child all day, you sit and worry if they are ok, and if the provider is taking care of them well. Your greatest hope is that your child will be safe, well take care of and happy.

In my case, I did a little searching but knew a few people who used the daycare I chose, including my best friend of 20 years. I had a meeting with the provider, spoke on the phone a few times and then one day I decided this is the one I was going to go with. I decided I would start slowly by taking my son Lukas to her a couple times a week before starting full time. Everything seemed to be going good. I thought a few times that it seemed she had too many kids, but I was a naive new mom and thought she must know what she is doing.

My son Lukas had acid reflux so he did this choking thing every once and awhile. The provider was aware of this and the instructions from the doctor to feed him in an upright position and leave him sitting upright for 15-30 minutes after feeding. She had not been doing this. Apparently from what I know now it was too hard to deal with that and her other kids.

On October 1, 2013 my greatest fear had come true. I was just leaving work when my daycare provider called me and said Lukas is not breathing. I told her I would be right there he should be fine in a minute, thinking he was doing that choking thing. She said "no Sara he is not breathing, my husband is doing CRP and the ambulance is on its way". My 2 mile drive seemed like it took me 3 hours. After seeing my son in the ambulance and then at the hospital with everyone working to bring him back, I was in complete and utter shock. I prayed to God to save him, but seeing his lifeless body lying there, I knew he was not coming back. I went over and whispered in his hear that his Mommy and Daddy loved him and that I knew he was strong. He was cold and I knew that God had taken him home.

After the investigation, we found out that my son had rolled over during his nap wearing his swaddler. The daycare provider found him once like that and flipped him over and walked away to get another child ready to go home. Then proceeded to have a conversation with that mother. When she went back to check on my son he had rolled over again with his face in the sheet (which was not correct for the area he was in). She picked him up and he was blue. The autopsy came back positional asphyxia

(suffocation). The approximate time he was laying there was 15-20 minutes. Which is in the time frame given in the guidelines for daycare providers.

I am not sure about you but I am only able to hold my breath for about 30 seconds, if that. How do we expect a baby, who is just learning to breathe to hold their breath for 15-20 minutes? This time frame is what are in the guidelines for childcare providers.

Now that you are thinking about that. Remember what I said about my son rolling over. Well he was in another room, there would be no way for the provider to see him do this. Imagine if he was in the same room as the provider. It would be much easier for her to have seen him roll over, even if only out of her peripheral vision. This is one reason for this bill of visible at all time is important, the other is to keep all childcare following the same rules.

For example, most daycare centers have an infant room. This room is where a child under the age of 1 year, eats, sleeps, and plays. In a home daycare, the baby can eat in one area, play in another area, and sleep in a completely different area. The area that they sleep in an in home daycare can be anywhere in the home.

The numbers do not lie! There has been ZERO death in a daycare center for at least the last 3 years.

Non Centers, 5 deaths in 2013, 6 in 2014, and 3 in 2015. There is the shocking proof of the reason behind this bill.

Thank you,

Sara Lynch